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OUR ESTABLISHMENT will be CLOSED
on
SATURDAY, JULY 28.
FARMER and COMPANY

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NOVELTIES,
EX THE ARCADIA,
FOR EARLY SPRING.
NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS,
AND ORDERED BY IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE
COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.
MILLINERY
HATS
COSTUMES
GLOVES
HUSBANDS.
ARRIVAL OF THE ORNUZ WITH OUR SECOND SHIP-
MENT OF SPRING NOVELTIES.
NOVELTIES EX THE ARCADIA.
NOVELTIES EX THE ORNUZ.

WE ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL NOVELTIES, EX THE ARCADIA, FOR EARLY SPRING.

NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS, AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION, MELBOURNE.

MILLINERY
MANTLES
COSTUMES
GLOVES
RIBBONS.

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NOVELTIES EX THE ORMUZ.

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MILLINERY
MANILES
COSTUMES
GLOVES
RIBBONS.

of SPRING NOVELTIES.
NOVELTIES EX THE ARCADIA.
NOVELTIES EX THE ORMCUZ.

FARMER AND COMPANY.

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EX THE ARCADIA,
FOR EARLY SPRING.

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AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION
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of SPRING NOVELTIES.

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FARMER AND COMPANY.

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MILLINERY
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ARRIVAL OF THE ORMUZ WITH OUR SECOND SHIPMENT
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NOVELTIES EX THE ORMUZ.

FARMER AND COMPANY.

WE ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING
NOVELTIES,
EX THE ARCADE,
FOR EARLY SPRING.

NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS.
AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION

COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.

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ARRIVAL of the ORMUZ with OUR SECOND SHIP
of SPRING NOVELTIES.

NOVELTIES EX THE ARCADIA.
NOVELTIES EX THE ORMUZ.

FARMER AND COMPANY.

WE ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING
NOVELTIES.
EX THE ARCADIA.
FOR EARLY GOING.

**NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS,
AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE
COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.**

**MILLINERY
MANICLES
COSTUMES
GLOVES
RIBBONS.**

**ARRIVAL of the ORMUZ WITH OUR SECOND SHIPMENT
OF SPRING NOVELTIES.**

**NOVELTIES EX THE ARCADIA
NOVELTIES EX THE ORMUZ.**

FARMER AND COMPANY.

NOVELTIES
EX THE ARCADIA
FOR EARLY SPRING.

NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS
AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION
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COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.

MILLINERY
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NOVELTIES EX THE ARCADIA.

FARMER AND COMPANY.

WE ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL NOVELTY
Ex THE ARCADIA
FOX EARLY SPRING.

NOW ON VIEW IN OUR SHOWROOMS,
AND ORDERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION
of the
COMING CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.

**MILLINERY
MANTLES
COSTUMES
GLOVES
RIBBONS.**

ARRIVAL OF THE COMPANY FROM THE GREAT BRITAIN.

NOVELTIES BY THE ARCADE.
NOVELTIES BY THE GEMINI.

SYDNEY.

be paid before any representatives of the council could be received. Letter received, and request complied with; the Mayor and Aldermen Burns to be representatives at the conference. From City Extension Railway League, stating that a conference of the city and suburban municipalities, and other representatives of the league, would be held in the Sydney Town Hall on Monday, July 20th, at 3.30 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the extension of the main railway to the deep waters of Port Jackson, and the best mode of procedure to be adopted, and to urge upon the Government the necessity of early action in the matter.

The fortnightly meeting of this council was held on July 23, when there were present the Mayor (Aldermen J. Fallick), with Aldermen R. H. Judd, Baker, Edwards, Walsley, Mayne, Gearing, Lambeth, Harber, and the council clerk (Mr. A. T. Gibson). Correspondence from the secretary of Municipal Association, notifying that the annual session will be held on Tuesday, September 26, at which it was hoped that every municipality in the colony would be represented, and suggest-

The new Town Hall for Rockdale is fast approaching completion; the contractor is pushing forward with the finishing trades; the large hall at the rear is made to provide seating accommodation for 600 persons, a want much felt in this now populous district.

The Hareville Council at their last meeting approved a grant of £200 for the Forest-road from the Hareville George's River from the Department of R.

"Piggoria," which certainly aptly described its characteristics at the time of our visit.

The Cave House is the only possible place near the cave where visitors can find a refuge for which they are charged 10s. a day), and it is, we understand, under the patronage of the Government, it seems right that the public should be made acquainted with what they have to expect during a visit to the Jenolan Caves.

We are, &c., TOURISTS.

COLLINS COMMITTED FOR MURDER

on CORNS.—Ask for Wells' "Rough on Corns." Quick complete, permanent cure. Corns, warts, bunions, and druggetts'.—(ADVT.)

HISTORY OF THE REFORM

upon the best principles, with an
te. The cost and room they would occupy
at to nothing. I am, &c.,
W. R. SHAW.

ATION.

R. SHAW.

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have obtained GOLD MEDALS at all International Exhibitions.
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Waltham-buildings, Bond-street, Sydney.
UNITED AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. 79, Pitt-street, Sydney.
ACCIDENT BEANCH.
Over—
Bond-street, 25th July, 1888.
To A. T. Waltham, Esq., Secretary.
Dear Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of the prompt payment of £200, the amount of accidental policy taken out by my late cousin, J. S. Edwards, who unfortunately lost his life by the accidental discharge of a gun some months ago.
Yours faithfully,
J. STUART-MACDON, Esq.,
D.R. ARTHUR J. BENNETT,
DENTAL SURGEON,
late Assistant Dental Surgeon of the College and Hospital of
Surgey, Philadelphia,
15, MACQUARIE-STREET, SYDNEY,
near Bazaar Building.
Consulting Hours: 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
TO WHOM SALE BY THE VICES OF TOBACCO, CIGARS, and Cigarettes.—Study your interest by making your purchases from **Narwell's Tobacco Factory, Limited, & Co., First-class, MELBOURNE AGENCY OF THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.**
THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD can be had from
Messrs. GORDON and GUTCH, Collins-street West,
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MELBOURNE.
PERPETUAL TRUSTEE COMPANY, Limited.
Capital:
Subscribed, £1,000,000. Paid up, £25,000.
Directors:
JAMES R. FAIRFAX, Chairman,
HENRY AUSTIN RICHARD JOHNS, Jun.
WALTER FRIND E. R. TICKER, M.L.C.
JOHN R. STREET.
Managing Director:
JOHN R. STREET.
A SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT having now been obtained for the purpose, this Company is prepared to act as
Executor under Wills
Trustee under Marriage or other Settlements
Administrator of Intestate Estates
Attorney under Power
Agent for Absentees, &c.
This Company is also prepared to TAKE OVER EXISTING TRUSTS from those wishing to be relieved of their duties and responsibilities.
All legal business connected with Estates placed under the management of the Company will continue to be conducted by the SOLICITORS who have previously had charge of it.
Further information can be obtained on application.
Office: 105, Pitt-street.
Sydney, 25th July, 1888.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS DAY'S PAPER.

THE ALLEGED TRAMWAY FRAUD.
ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S AWARDS.
THE EVANS COMBINATION TRUCKS.
PRESENTATION TO SIR JOHN ROBERTSON.
OUR AMERICAN LETTER.
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THE MARITIME LABOUR DISPUTE.
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SERIOUS TRAMWAY ACCIDENT.
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PROTECTIONIST COMPLICATIONS IN VICTORIA.
THE STOCK TAX AND AUSTRALIAN UNION GAS ACCIDENTS.
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THE WRACK OF THE GENERAL PICTON.
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BURNING OF A RIVER STEAMER.
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MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1893.

A STRONG protest has been entered by Sir Graham Berry against the refusal of the Postmaster-General to agree to the alterations in the day of the departure of the mail steamers from Adelaide.

THE arrest of Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, M.P., has been ordered, for inciting disobedience to the Crimes Act.

NOTICE of motion has been given in the South Australian Assembly for the appointment of a select committee to consider whether any additional facilities should be made by the colony for the trade of the Barrier districts.

YESTERDAY afternoon, at the Town Hall, His Excellency the Governor distributed the star awards granted to colonists in New South Wales by the Royal Humane Society of Victoria for courageous acts in saving life.

THE City Solicitor reported to the Municipal Council yesterday that he had carefully perused the grant to the council of the George-street Market site, and that he was of opinion that the council could not part with any vested interest beyond what was provided for in the Act.

SIR JOHN ROBERTSON, K.C.M.G., has been presented with a marble bust, which he had subscribed for by a few members of the Civil Service as a token of esteem. The presentation was made by Mr. John Raa.

THE Kiama Municipal Council has accepted the offer of the Australian Joint Stock Bank to advance to them £9000, the bank to hold the council's debentures until such time as they can be disposed of.

THE Sydney tramway guards' valentines upon the Minister for Works yesterday afternoon with reference to the funds upon the tramways. It was explained by Mr. Sutherland that a board would be appointed to inquire into the whole matter.

LAST night the Rev. J. Hay delivered a lecture

at the T.M.C.A. Hall on the "History of the Reformation." Mr. Justice Foster presided.

The captain and crew of the General Pictou have been landed at Launceston by the steamer Warren-borne. It is supposed that the ship came under the influence of a current, and was driven on a reef.

Mr. DAVIS BROWN, M.L.A., contends that the Government showed no aptitude in the conduct of their business during the last session. The members could never rely upon the particular business first on the paper being proceeded with, and the want of system on the part of the Government gave rise to much delay and loss of time.

A Masonic installation took place at Singleton on Thursday evening. Sixteen past masters were present, and about 70 sat at a banquet. The proposal to erect a hall was received most enthusiastically.

It has been resolved to represent to the Minister for Works that instead of valuable silt at the Newcastle harbour being taken out to sea it should be utilised in reclaiming the low-lying lands of the foreshore of the harbour.

REAR-ADMIRAL FIELD says that in 1882 a squatter told him that he had bribed certain members of the Victorian Parliament, although the date of the act were not named.

The steamer Britannia, trading on the Lower Murray, has been totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at £8000.

The Newcastle Poultry, Pigeon, and Canary Society is holding a successful show. The exhibitors number 100 more than last year, and there are large attendances.

The will of Mr. A. T. Clark, M.L.A. of Victoria, formerly member for Williamstown, has been proved under £11,750.

A MURDERER syndicate is said to be negotiating for the purchase of a number of mining properties at Comandale.

A FETTER railway accident is reported from Middle Creek railway station (N.), to the Adelaide express. Owing to the stationmaster calling the wrong lever the train was shunted on to a blind siding. The permanent way was torn up, but the passengers escaped without serious injury.

Mr. BENT, M.L.A., returned to the Victorian Legislative Assembly yesterday for the first time since his accident, and received a hearty welcome.

The Maritime Council have taken steps with the view of preventing the unloading of the R.M.S. Mariposa, pending the settlement of the Chinese labour question with regard to her.

At a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council last evening, a resolution was passed endorsing the action taken by the Hunter River miners in protesting against the appointment of arbitrators who were interested persons.

It has been resolved that the secretary of the Trades and Labour Council be instructed to write to the Maritime Council and the Building Trades Council, asking them to meet at a conference to discuss steps for uniting the whole of the councils together.

Mr. HANSEN, M.L.A. of Victoria, protests that the action taken by him in the interests of the female assistant teachers is not done, as suggested by Mr. Gillies, with the view of breaking down the Education Act.

AFTER transacting a large amount of routine business last night, the Victorian Legislative Assembly adjourned until 10.15 A.M. next.

H.M. ships Nelson, Calliope, Diamond, Rapid, and Lalande have arrived in Melbourne.

It has been decided to establish a butter factory at Droughton Creek with a capital of £2000.

As the adjourned inquiry into the death of Michael Peter Collins, at Botany, the coroner's jury yesterday found that the deceased met his death by arsenical poisoning, and that the poison was administered by his wife Louisa, who was committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder.

Yesterday night it is reported to have been the coldest for many years at Daboo, the thermometer being down to 20 degrees.

A SPECIAL audit of the municipal books at Forbes has just been completed. The examination extends over 183 years. The report comments unfavourably on the general system in which the books have been kept.

It appears that the resolution to hold a miners' aggregate meeting at Newcastle on Saturday next does not meet with general approval. The meeting is considered premature.

The R.M.S. Mariposa, from San Francisco, arrived in port yesterday afternoon.

FULLY 600 passengers left for Melbourne by last night's express, and owing to the large number of passengers booked by the ordinary express to-day a special train will be started this afternoon.

Large sales of city property continue to be made in Brisbane to Melbourne syndicates.

The Governor of South Australia gave a fancy dress ball last night at which 600 guests were present.

A PUBLIC meeting at Adelaide has resolved that the present method of assessing municipal and district council taxation is unjust in its incidence, and detrimental to the best interests of the people.

At the first annual show of the Northwest Poultry, Pigeon, and Canary Society yesterday, there were over 700 exhibitors, and some very good birds were on view.

A SPREAD supply of fresh water struck at Mount Margaret, Thargomindah (Q.), has caused a great deal of excitement in the district.

At a meeting of the Electrical Institute last night, the secretary announced that 46 members had been enrolled, and that from a financial point of view considerable success had been met with.

The English football team have defeated a Kyeon team.

Two teams came into collision in Pitt-street South yesterday morning. The one was a Leichhardt and the other a Maribee team. Some of the passengers were shaken, but no serious injury resulted.

If we are not superior to the teaching of experience, the lessons of the last session should throw light upon the course to be followed in the session that is to come.

Members of Parliament generally have disappeared to follow, as we have been informed, "their private avocations;" but for those who constitute the Executive, and are responsible for the management of public affairs, the beginning of the recess is the entrance into a new field of activity, hardly less important than that which is just closed. The duties imposed upon them under the actual conditions of the session have been too truly "onerous," calling them away from those other duties which arise out of their Ministerial position. Happy is the Minister who has not arrears to work off when the session ends. But apart from this, the recess is the time within which a wise and public-spirited Ministry will devote itself to the work of making complete preparation for the session to come. If this work be neglected, or driven off to the last moment, and then hastily and carelessly performed, a heavy penalty will almost certainly have to be paid when Parliament meets again. Unfortunately, it is not only the men who are guilty of the neglect, but the country also that must submit to the punishment.

There are some points of resemblance between the circumstances of this year and those of last year which should not be overlooked, if benefit is to be gained by the teaching of experience. In 1887 Parliament was prorogued on 13th July, and a new session began on 20th September. This year the prorogation was on the 24th July, and it is a fair assumption that the next session will not be opened much before the close of September. Last year, opening the session in September, the Government hoped to bring financial affairs within the limits of regularity and order, and proposed to deal with the readjustment of taxation, the establishment of local government, and the amendment

of the land law. Not one of these hopes, or promises, or undertakings has been fulfilled, and as a consequence all these matters are still pressing upon the attention of the Ministry. If the House should meet next September, will the Ministry repeat the mistake made a year before in proposing to deal with all these matters, and crowding them up with a number of others? If so, the probability is that the repetition of the mistake will bring after it a repetition of the failures and the disappointments which the close of the session has made so conspicuous.

Nothing is easier for a Government than the attempt to throw the responsibility for its failures upon the shoulders of the Opposition. But that excuse cannot always be accepted from a Government that has enjoyed the faithful support of a substantial majority. The Government has learned during the last session both what it has to expect and what it should not expect at the hands of the Opposition, and the more thoroughly it has learned this lesson the more carefully should it adapt its course of action to the actual conditions of Parliamentary life. The Government should entertain no illusions on this matter. If the next session is to be a successful one, the Government must be prepared to win success by means of good tactics and a firm front. Few things can better serve the purposes of an Opposition than relies upon a Fabian policy of obstruction and delay than a course of procedure on the part of the Government which tends to fritter away the energies of its friends, and to multiply for its enemies the opportunities of attack. Under present circumstances the chances of success for the Government lie in concentration and persistence, in not undertaking more than there is a fair prospect of carrying through, and in following up what is undertaken with steady tenacity. This plan of action cannot perhaps be followed unless the Government has fully made up its mind, carefully prepared its measures, and eliminated as far as possible from its policy points of weakness or of doubt; but these are conditions which ought to be observed in almost any case.

The Government would only dissipate its strength if it should propose to accomplish more than the opportunities before it, measured in the light of experience, can be expected to permit. To undertake next session the settlement of the local government question, the land question, and the finances together, would be to court another collapse. To bring in an array of promises as at the opening of last session, and then to pass from one measure to another, beginning many things but completing nothing, confusing supporters and causing opponents to exult, would be to trifle with the public interest, and to make Parliamentary government a dreary pastime, instead of earnest and intelligent work. The Government cannot do everything at once. If it would do anything substantial for the public good, it must make a choice even between measures of extreme urgency. It must concentrate its energies upon one or two, and let the rest stand by until these are disposed of; otherwise, once again, the risk will be incurred of sacrificing all.

There are some matters which ought not under any consideration to be exposed to that risk. The finances of the colony ought, before the close of this year, to be placed on a well-defined and satisfactory foundation. The scandal of carrying on the Government for half the year by means of temporary supply bills, and passing the Estimates as a matter of form after the irregular and unchecked appropriations for six months have been expended, ought not to be repeated. We have heard a great deal lately about unauthorized expenditure, violations of the Audit Act, imprudent appointments, &c. What can be more conducive to irregularities of this sort than the continued dispendment which is thrown upon the duty authorized precautions for Parliamentary control over public expenditure by habitually staving off the consideration of the Estimates? At any cost the business for next session should be so arranged as to provide for the deliberate treatment of the Estimates for 1889 before again permitted of allowing a year to pass without making definite provision for the reduction of the deficiency. The Government has already expressed the opinion that this cannot be done without fresh taxation. Some further light will be thrown upon that question before the next session begins. But if fresh taxation be required, there should not be a repetition next session of the fatal mistake which has lately been made. At any cost the taxation policy should be brought forward, as it was promised last September, "at an early date," and the measures in which it is embodied should be well considered and intelligible. They should carry their meaning on their face and be submitted in time to be fully discussed.

We do not see how, if the public interest be considered, the question of local government can be any longer postponed. It is to be doubted whether the financial business of the colony can be placed on a sound foundation until this question has been dealt with. The Government recognized its importance last year by putting it nominally in the first place. But to pass a local government bill would be the work of a session, and if the Government be sincerely desirous of passing such a bill, it will have to be introduced early, and pressed on uninterruptedly until it is passed. The manner in which this question is treated next session will be a test of the public spirit and good faith of the Government. It will have to be clearly understood that if a local government bill is introduced, not as a matter of form, but with the purpose of making it law, the Government will concentrate all its energies upon it, and leave other matters to take their turn and bide their chance.

Unfortunately, there is ground for the opinion that before entering upon the consideration of either financial questions or a local government bill it would be prudent to take up the question of Parliamentary procedure, and to set up a code of rules that would leave scope for legitimate debate, but would place effective restraints upon obstruction, disorder, and vicious waste of time. It would be true economy of time to spend a few days upon this pioneering work before entering upon the actual business of legislation. The question was carefully considered last session by the Standing Orders Committee, and the ground for action has, therefore, been prepared.

The recess has only just begun, but Ministers cannot too soon or too earnestly set themselves to consider in what way the more satisfactory performance of Parliamentary

work in the coming session may be secured. The first half of the first year of our second century has passed; and so far as its Parliamentary history goes there is no cause for pride in it. If we are to redeem our reputation before the close of the year some radical changes of method must be made, and on the part of the Government there should be a courageous moderation of aim, a steadiness of purpose, and a concentration of energy for which hitherto we have looked in vain.

Protection and prosperity go together. So, at least, say the protectionists; and they try to prove the case by pointing to the good times that are now being enjoyed in Victoria, where the Treasurer is almost embarrassed with the largeness of his surplus, and fortunes are being made every day out of land-jobbing. The disappointment with which the Victorian protectionists have received the Budget submitted by Mr. Gillies is a curious commentary upon these statements. Sops have been given to the farmers, and manufacturers here and there have received a little extra coddling; but the loud and bitter cry for more protection which has come from almost every industry in the colony has been disregarded. The protectionists are greatly dissatisfied, and some of the Melbourne newspapers are talking about an agitation which may possibly have a serious influence upon the political situation. The leading protectionist journal, which supports the coalition Government (consisting of half free-traders and half protectionists), says cautiously, but meaningfully, that "the protective policy of the country seems to some extent ignored," and openly laments the decision at which Ministers have arrived not to increase the stock tax or to impose prohibitive duties on farm produce.

What is the meaning of this? If everything is so prosperous in Victoria under protection, why cannot the people be content? Why do they ask for more? The answer is that the prosperity of Victoria is general, and has been brought about by general causes. But the protected classes, who, according to theory, should be the most prosperous, form an exception to the rule; they are in adversity. While people are making fortunes out of the land boom, and the public Treasury is filled to overflowing, there are complaints about "starvation wages" and "slack employment," and these complaints, we are told, "come from the trades with the highest duties." Some of the statements that have recently been published are very instructive. The hatters are protected by a duty of 30 per cent, but their trade is "in a very depressed condition." There is a duty of 25 per cent upon furniture; but the furniture makers receive lower wages than any other artisans in the colony, and the tendency is still downwards. The iron-moulders are protected to the extent of 25 per cent; but this avails them little, for we are told that work in this trade is so scarce that the Unions have had to distribute no less than £200 in out-of-work allowances. And this is Victoria, the place to which our unemployed ironworkers have been taught to look with envy.

Take, again, the boot and shoe trade. It has lost nearly all its intercolonial business, which has been steadily diminishing year by year, until it has dwindled down to practically nothing. Excessive duties on imported boots and shoes temporarily enhanced the price of the colonial-made article, and the profits being great so long as the markets of the other colonies absorbed the surplus production, many persons were attracted to the business, with the natural results of over-production, a glutted market, excessive competition, reduced prices, and last, but not least, the establishment of boot and shoe manufacturers in the other colonies to such an extent as to practically supply the local demand and close their markets against Victorian goods. There could scarcely be a happier description of the working of protective duties. Temporary prosperity and inflation, followed by decline and collapse. But the protectionists cannot, or will not, see this. When things go wrong with them, they have only one idea, viz., to ask for more and still more protection, until protection becomes prohibition. This is what the protectionists of Victoria are bent upon. "With everything flourishing around them," the account runs, "some of the most heavily protected industries in the colony are deploring their distressed condition, and are asking Government to abandon the policy of protection for almost a policy of prohibition." If this is the case with our neighbour, would it not be madness on our part to adopt protection as the policy of the country?

The Victorian Government does not see its way to go in for prohibition, and there are therefore sounds of warfare in the protectionist camp. Neither does it see its way to shut the door against New South Wales live stock and New South Wales maize. The modest request of the farmers was that the stock tax should be raised to 25 per cent, and that a duty of 30 per cent should be placed upon farm produce all round. These demands have been refused, but an attempt has been made to conciliate the farmers by giving them bonuses for special productions, by reducing railway freight charges, and by laying out money for the promotion of the agricultural interest. How far the policy of conciliation will succeed remains to be seen, but the signs are somewhat threatening. The farmers certainly have a strong case. Under the protective policy of the colony, which they have helped to establish, they have paid enhanced prices for almost all the things they use in their houses or in the prosecution of their industry, while the products have not benefited them in any way. They now say, "If protection is to be maintained by our help, we must get something out of it;" and they mean to press their demands. They are particularly in earnest about the stock tax, the abolition of which Mr. Gillies speaks of as a thing in the near future. The light in which this tax is regarded by the protectionists in Victoria is shown by the disapprobation with which the action of the Government is viewed by the representative journal of the party, which declares that with the existing tax the Victorian farmers are beaten in their own market by the stock-breeders of New South Wales and Queensland, and laughs at the scruples of the Government as sentimental. But the strongest argument in favour of the tax is that put forward by the farmers themselves. They represent that if a heavy stock tax is imposed New South Wales will retaliate with a protective tariff, and that then there may be brought about that much-desired object, "a

uniform Australian tariff against the rest of the world." In other words, "Australian free trade." How the farmers reconcile their desire for Australian free trade with their wish to keep New South Wales and Queensland live stock out of Victoria does not appear. What they and the other protectionists really want to do is to build a high wall round about their territory, so that nothing may be admitted which they can produce themselves. The wall is already pretty high, but somehow or other it does not appear to have furthered the interests of the classes for whose special benefit it was erected.

While professing a spirit of conciliation towards other colonies, especially towards New South Wales, the COLONIAL TREASURER of Victoria has missed a splendid opportunity of promoting union. He thinks the stock tax to be a cause of irritation in New South Wales, and yet, though we take about three quarters of a million sterling of produce, and half a million sterling of manufactures from Victoria, he is not prepared to abolish this tax. He has hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling surplus, which he might apply towards this object and for the removal of duties on produce which we could supply. But he is determined to keep the door shut against a neighbour who spends a million and a quarter sterling with him. We might really suppose from his language that Mr. Gillies would increase this stock tax, only, as he says, he might have cause to regret it—for it might invite reprisals, and Victoria might lose part of her export trade. However, this colony has to be thankful for anticipated mercies, for Mr. Gillies believes the abolition of the tax will be one of the things of the near future. We rejoice that Victoria is so prosperous; but we cannot rejoice that her Government is so ungenerously as to put off the doing of a good turn—of reciprocating the friendly spirit shown towards her here—until the day when there will be no surplus, and it will be impossible to do it. We may suppose that Mr. Gillies regards the abolition of this stock tax as one of the sacrifices and concessions which Victoria has in reserve to secure union. For our part we decline to regard such a thing as any concession at all. Until Victoria opens her ports to our produce and manufactures as freely as we have opened ours to hers, it is ridiculous for her protectionist leaders to talk about mutual concessions to secure union. Fair-minded men in Victoria see this. The surplus of that colony gave a splendid opportunity to her statesmen to abolish all duties intended to shut out the produce of her neighbours. But instead of availing himself of it Mr. Gillies prefers to let the produce of China enter her ports at a cheaper rate. Instead of assimilating the tariffs of the colonies he proposes to vary them still more, and thus increase the difficulty of the union, the accomplishment of which he professes to desire. But that to adopt reprisals would be contrary to the generosity of the free-trade system, and the interest of this colony, our neighbours richly deserve the closing of our ports against a million sterling of their products. Then we should be on even terms, and Mr. Gillies might with reason talk of making mutual sacrifices and concessions to secure union.

The poisoning of a whole family by coal gas is a comparatively rare occurrence. There is something particularly sad in the narrative that comes to us from Malvern, Victoria, because it seems to be evident that the sacrifice of life in this case is to be traced to a degree of ignorance which townspeople can scarcely realise. The Dick family had been living in the country, and were unfamiliar with the management of gas. There is nothing very remarkable in that, but it is not quite easy to understand how such an extensive escape could have been allowed to take place without attracting attention before its fatal effects came to be produced. After a certain point apparently, the inhalation of coal gas destroys consciousness, but it might have been thought that the smell of the gas would have enforced attention upon some of the party before that point was reached. The greater number of gas accidents arise from a different cause. Leaks are perceived and explosions follow from the incautious use of lights in the endeavour to discover their locality. It is not perhaps generally known how extremely poisonous some of the products of the distillation of coal are, and it is a fortunate thing that the odour given forth by escaping gas is so strong and so offensive that its presence can hardly fail to be detected even by the dullest of waking senses. There ought not to be any serious danger in the use of gas. Probably there is not nearly so much as in the use of kerosene if we may judge from the comparative frequency of accidents in the latter case. Of course in this, as in many other matters, a reasonable amount of care, founded upon some knowledge of the conditions, is necessary. Nothing, in fact, where any knowledge of the conditions exists, can excuse carelessness in the use of an article which may be both poisonous and explosive. It is possible, however, for danger to arise from a combination of carelessness and carelessness. Carelessness may lead to the habitual nightly turning off of the supply at the meter, but sometimes this may involve the extinction of an unobserved light where the tap of the burner has been turned on. The next day when the gas is again allowed to enter, there will be an escape, and if the burner be in a part of the house not frequently used, it may continue until it becomes a source of danger. Which may be the better, the nightly exclusion of the gas, or the opposite practice, may be a question open to argument; but there is no doubt that in any case vigilance and care are necessary, particularly in connection with the use of movable gasaliers with a water joint.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The English mails dated London, 22nd June, per P. and O. Company's steamer Maasia, will be due to-day in time for delivery at 2 p.m.

It is believed that all the members of the Ministry, with the exception of the Premier, and possibly the Minister for Mines and the Minister for Works, will attend the opening ceremony of the Melbourne Exhibition.

We are informed that the train leaving at half-past 11 to-morrow, to convey members of the Queensland Parliament visiting the Melbourne Exhibition, will carry a mail.

A PLACARD has just been issued from the General Post Office calling the attention of the public to certain postal advantages to be obtained at that institution. These include post cards, reply post cards, stamped envelopes, private marks for postage stamps to prevent

stamps being stolen and sold, stamped registered letter envelopes, registration, private boxes, money orders, telegrams by post, &c.

Mr. J. R. FAIRBANKS authorities as to say that his name appears in the list of Commissioners to the Melbourne Exhibition without his consent or knowledge, and that he has respectfully declined to accept the appointment.

In consequence of the ordinary express train leaving Sydney for Melbourne at 5.15 p.m. on Friday being full passengers who have not already booked should arrange for the special express train, leaving at 8.25 p.m.

YESTERDAY afternoon a deputation, representing the Sydney tram conductors, waited on the Minister for Works, and asked that steps should be taken to discover the guilty parties, if there were any, in the recently alleged tramway frauds, and to clear the innocent persons from the unjust suspicions which at present rested on them. The conductors, it was stated, were willing to render every assistance to the Department in the investigation.

Mr. Sutherland, to whom the Department had already done in the matter, caused several minutes to be spent by the Minister and Secretary for Railways to read, in which the results of the inquiries which had been made were shown, and he assured the deputation that the desire of the Department was to get at the bottom of the whole affair, and to detect the guilty parties, if such existed.

A NUMBER of deputations will wait upon Ministers to-day. The Colonial Secretary will at 10 o'clock receive one from the Municipal Council of Waterloo.

Regarding a grant for the improvement of Mount Carmel Park, at 10.30 Sir Henry Parkes will be waited on by a deputation from the Municipal Council of Manly, who intend to make certain representations concerning the projected removal of the quarantine station. The Minister for Works will be waited on by deputations as under:—At 11 o'clock, with reference to the survey of a railway from the Darling and Berrigan, at 11.30, from the Leichhardt Municipal Council regarding the fares and sections of the Leichhardt tramline; at noon, concerning the resumption of land at Alexandria for siding purposes; and at 12.30, with reference to obtaining a grant in respect of the formation of a thoroughfare deviating from the main road at South Gorrings.

At the Land Department, a deputation from the Kangaroo Valley Progress Committee will be received at 11 a.m., in respect to their application for the use of part of the recreation reserve for purposes connected with the local agricultural show. The Postmaster-General will at 11 o'clock receive representatives of various Friendly Societies concerning postal facilities.

YESTERDAY morning a deputation, consisting of Messrs. W. A. Cotes, J. B. Donkin, A. H. Moore, G. S. Campbell, H. G. J. Cadell, J. E. Fisher, and Joseph Abbott, M.L.A., waited upon the Hon. S. A. Joseph, chairman of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, to request him to co-operate with the committee formed yesterday for the purpose of recognising Mr. Consul Griffin's efforts in regard to the removal of wool duties. Mr. Joseph immediately complied with the request of the deputation, and promised the movement his support.

On Wednesday, Major-General Richardson, Major Mackenzie, and Major Tanton spent the whole day in making a reconnaissance of the country lying between Dundas, or Eastwood as it is now called, and Parramatta. The party travelled by rail to Eastwood, taking their horses with them, and then, with the assistance of a guide well skilled in the locality, thoroughly examined the surrounding country, including up to the evening at Parramatta. This reconnaissance was one of a series which have lately been made with the view of familiarising the staff officers with the country around Sydney, and especially with the routes by which an enemy would be likely to advance on Sydney. In the present case the country surveyed lies between the Hawkesbury River and the Parramatta, and would probably be traversed by an enemy landing on the Hawkesbury. It is intended, if possible, to hold the next whole day parade of the metropolitan volunteers, which takes place on the 25th August, in this part of the country.

On Wednesday evening last 25 recruits of the No. 12 Battery, V.A., were passed into the ranks by Captain Nathan, adjutant, who subjected them to a very stiff passing examination. The recruits were all of the highest quality, and eligible recruits subjected themselves can only be taken on as supernumeraries.

When the Water and Sewerage Board took over the matters now under their control, it was found that the sum of £43,000 (in arrears) was due from water consumers. The officers of the Board succeeded in collecting £19,000, but the collection of the remaining £24,000 seemed a matter of probability without recourse to law. Final notices to the debtors are now in process of service. These will all be served by the end of next week, and unless payment is then made, distress warrants will be issued.

The work of laying the 18,473 yards of piping ordered at the last meeting of the Water and Sewerage Board will be started next week, and pushed on as rapidly as possible to completion.

REGARDING the Departmental cost of the Water and Sewerage Board, to which public attention has been called by the Estimates, the Secretary of the Board informs us that it is a mistake to suppose that the whole of the £300,000 appearing in the Estimates is required to work the department. The total cost of the department is £11,000, the remainder of the vote being required for maintenance, labour, coal, &c. Mr. Blosome further states that the cost of the department is only 1.92 per cent upon the revenue of £125,000, and that when the revenue amounts to £190,000, as it is expected to do within the next 12 months, the comparative cost to the revenue will be but 1.9 per cent.

Some difficulty has arisen in leasing or acquiring the land required for the pumping station designed to raise the water to the higher levels of North Shore. The difficulty is one, however, that will, it is believed, be overcome within a few days. The work of erecting the pumping station will then be proceeded with as fast as possible.

The following telegram, received to the water supply at Broken Hill, have been received by the Chief Inspector of Watering Places from Mr. John Low, Inspector of Public Watering Places, dated 25th July:—Broken Hill well giving 3000 gal. on per day of good water; no increase for the last three days. "Have just come in from Stephen's Creek. No difficulty, by sinking 8 ft., in getting 20,000 gallons per day, good domestic water. Water-carriers who sink wells complain that others will not do so. Those that do not sink wells are the first to proclaim scarcity of water, and are complaining that they can sink only 500 gal. best leakage water. On Friday, after being hauled two hours about town, it was sold at 5s. per 100 gallons. Not the slightest danger of water famine for months. Report by post. No urgent need of machinery."

Our American letter, which we publish this morning, deals with the struggle between the two great parties in the Presidential campaign. Allusion is made to the Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and the nomination of Mr. Cleveland, to the Republican Convention at Chicago, and the difficulties of that party in coming to a decision concerning a representative which, according to our cablegram of the 26th June, has resulted in the nomination of General Harrison. The strength of the sides that will decide the election of President in November next, and the various interests that will intensify the excitement until the issue shall be known are discussed by our correspondent. The letter refers to new methods of utilising electricity as a motive power, to the application of electricity in substitution for hanging, to alterations in the laws bearing upon executions, and to the visit of English volunteers to Boston, which was sanctioned by a special Act of Congress.

Trains were fully 600 passengers by the express train which left Sydney at 8.15 yesterday evening for Melbourne. The station presented a lively appearance shortly before the departure, and the official appearance to their utmost in seeing all safely aboard, but under the supervision of the stationmaster the train with its human freight was started on its journey without a hitch of any kind. There were three sleeping cars and an immense quantity of luggage.

Trains have of late been considerable improvement in the punctuality of the trains running into and out of the Redfern Railway Station. During the whole of Tuesday's traffic there were only two suburban trains late, and those were but a short space behind the time arranged for their arrival. We are informed that the adherence to the time-table has been highly satisfactory during the last three weeks.

and that there is good grounds for believing that the improvement will be maintained. Nearly 80 passenger trains run into and out of the station during the day, which brings the total number of trains up to close upon 200, it will be seen that the bestowal of praise for punctuality is well deserved by Mr. Read, the traffic manager, and those acting under his instructions.

Some experiments are now being made with reference to wood-blocking in William-street, at the corner of Bourke-street, the results of which will no doubt be watched with some interest on the part of those who are desirous of seeing street paving carried out with the greatest efficiency and economy. The Chambers patent method of wood-blocking consists in rabbitting the block to form a joint of required size. The blocks, which are practically close together, are laid down dry and flushed with tar and hot gravel raked into the surface on the roadway, and allows the blocks to contract and expand. The joints can be taken out and refilled when necessity requires it. It is claimed that the patent saves labour greatly, and its concomitant expense, besides rendering the pavement capable of easy repair.

We understand that on arrival of the steamship Hankow, now at Melbourne, in Sydney, the 800 Vermont sheep aboard, consigned to Mr. Samuel McCaughey, of Corang, near Urama, will be placed in quarantine. The sheep will remain so isolated for 90 days, and during the period of detention will be "dressed" three times.

An arctic bear is being put down on the Salisbury Downs Station, the property of Mr. William Taylor, situated about 105 miles from Willemans, by the Ontario Well-Boring Company, Limited, a Melbourne company. The total depth reached is 900 feet, and the water, which is quite fresh, quickly rose to the surface, and there was an occasional overflow. No increase of water has taken place since then, but with the use of a pump a sufficient supply could be obtained for stock purposes. In order to test the well it has been decided to continue to a depth of 1000 ft. or 2000 ft. if need be. In all there will be six wells to be sunk on this station, and operations will furthermore be commenced almost immediately by the same firm of contractors for the sinking of a number of holes on the Norley, Noolchee, and Thargomindah runs.

On Friday last Mr. Frederic King, late manager of the Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, was the recipient of a very handsome watch and chain, accompanied by an address from the officers, past and present, of the department over which he has presided for the last 26 years, to mark the occasion of his retirement from the public service and their appreciation of his uniform kindness and courtesy to all with whom he was brought in contact in the performance of his onerous and exacting duties. The presentation was made at Mr. King's residence, Ashfield, by a deputation consisting of Drs. Strong and Beattie, with Mr. Rossiter, the officer at present in charge of the department. Mr. King, in appropriate terms, expressed his indebtedness to the public service and their appreciation of his uniform kindness and courtesy to all with whom he was brought in contact in the performance of his onerous and exacting duties. The presentation was made at Mr. King's residence, Ashfield, by a deputation consisting of Drs. Strong and Beattie, with Mr. Rossiter, the officer at present in charge of the department. Mr. King, in appropriate terms, expressed his indebtedness to the public service and their appreciation of his uniform kindness and courtesy to all with whom he was brought in contact in the performance of his onerous and exacting duties.

MESSRS. FREEMAN and Co., Limited, George-street, are sending a collection of photographs to the Melbourne Exhibition, which is sure to attract a good deal of attention. The exhibits comprise ordinary specimens of photography, and of all sizes of autotype prints, besides the negatives, by the patent autotype process. Some are executed in red carbon, which is a style said to be gaining great favour at home. A large watercolour on opal, 22 x 18, of Lady Carrington's three children, is most artistic. An oil painting of Sir Frederick Darley in his official robes is to be sent with the collection. There are also a number of photographs of professional artists, including several grand panel photos of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Carrington, Sir John Hay, Chief Justice Darley, Admiral Fairfax, and others.

A SEARCHER desires to call attention to a grievance that he says he and many of the unemployed suffer from, through having upon application for work, where employers of labour have named the place and time to make application, to be told that the vacancy was filled on the previous evening. Our correspondent thinks that such actions are misleading and unfair to a number of men who have wives and families to support.

CORRESPONDENT calls attention to the condition of the arid situated alongside of the Central Police Court, which he says is inadequate for the purposes intended. The want of proper accommodation according to our correspondent creates a shameful nuisance in the vicinity, and he hopes that the inspector of nuisances or some responsible person will take measures to remedy what he says is at present a disgrace to the city.

A GENERAL meeting of the New South Wales Employers' Union will be held in the afternoon, Sydney Exchange, this afternoon, at half-past 3 o'clock. Owing to the intended absence of the Mayor and other leading citizens at the Melbourne Exhibition opening ceremony, it has been decided to postpone the Municipal Conference as to the city railway extension from Monday next Monday, 6th August.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

ARREST OF MR. O'KELLY.

[BY CABLE.]
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, JULY 25.

Mr. James J. O'Kelly, M.P. for Roscommon North has been arrested in London for its sitting disobedience to the Crimes Act.

THE ATTACK ON THE VICTORIAN ASSEMBLY.

[BY CABLE.]
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, JULY 25.

Rear-Admiral Field, who stated in the House of Commons recently that a very able man of great wealth in Victoria had told him that any number of men could be bribed in the Victorian Legislative Assembly, has been requested, on behalf of the Agent-General for Victoria, to disclose the name of his informant. Rear-Admiral Field informed the House that he would explain his statement on Friday next. He admits that in 1882 a squatter told him that he had bribed certain members of the Victorian Parliament, although the dates of the act were not named.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

[BY CABLE.]
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MARRIED COUPLE, without children, wanted.

[illegible]